

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /075 W

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P R 252200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5185

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, BR, AR, CI

SUBJ: DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REF: A) SANTIAGO 5115 (NOTAL) B) SANTIAGO 5085 (NOTAL)

C) SANTIAGO 4925 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN FAST-MOVING STORY OF DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES AMONG MEMBERS OF CHILEAN MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). STORY MAY BREAK IN US PRESS OVER WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

2. PAPAL NUNCIO JULY 24 "EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN" AND "DIS-QUIET OF AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED IN SANTIAGO" TO FONMINISTRY OVER LIST OF MIR MEMBERS ALLEGEDLY PURGED (REF A). MINISTRY IS REPORTEDLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM CHILEAN EMBASSY/BUENOS AIRES. CARDINAL SILVA AND TWO BISHOPS SAW PRESIDENT PINOCHET SAME DAY. CHURCH SOURCE DID NOT KNOW DETAILS OF TALK, BUT REPORTED ONE BISHOP AS SAYING CARDINAL THOUGHT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PINOCHET HAD NOT BEEN USEFUL THIS MATTER.

3. SANTIAGO PRESS PUBLISHED SECOND LIST OF 59 CHILEAN

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EXTREMISTS THAT HAD APPEARED IN NEWSPAPER "O-DIA" OF

CURITABA, BRAZIL. THESE 59 NAMES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN LIST OF 60 (NOT 59, AS STATED IN REF A) DEAD, ALLEGEDLY KILLED IN PURGE OF CHILEAN MIR, WHICH APPEARED IN ARGENTINE MAGAZINE RECENTLY (REF A).

4. IN SECOND LIST, NAMES ARE SAID TO BE OF MIRISTAS "DEAD, WOUNDED OR ESCAPED" AS RESULT OF CLASHES WITH ARGENTINE POLICE IN SALTA AREA. THERE IS NO INDICATION HOW MANY OR WHICH PERSONS ARE IN EACH OF THREE CATEGORIES.

5. CARDINAL'S REPRESENTATIVE ON INTER-DENOMINATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT CHECK OF 119 NAMES ON THE TWO LISTS SHOWS THAT OVER 100 WERE INCLUDED IN LIST OF 166 "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS WHICH COMMITTEE GAVE TO MINJUSTICE SCHWEITZER AND SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE IN MAY 1975 (PARA 5, SANTIAGO 3598). SEPTEL GIVES FURTHER INFORMATION.

6. ASSOCIATED PRESS REPRESENTATIVE IN SANTIAGO IS MAKING DETAILED INQUIRY INTO BOTH LISTS, AND IS IN TOUCH WITH SOME OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVED. HE ALSO HAS BEEN TOLD BY RELATIVES OF LUIS ALBERTO GUENDELMAN WISNIAK (REF B), WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON EITHER LIST, THAT BODY FOUND IN BUENOS AIRES IS NOT THAT OF GUENDELMAN. AP MAN EXPECTS TO FILE STORY JULY 27. HE SAID ROBERT MOSS OF "ECONOMIST" HAS JUST ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO AND UNDERSTANDS EVERETT MARTIN OF "WALL STREET JOURNAL" IS ON HIS WAY. HE ASSUMES OTHER FOREIGN REPORTERS WILL BE CONVERGING TO COVER THIS HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT.

7. LOCAL PRESS COMMENT SO FAR IS SPARSE, BUT NO ONE QUESTIONS VALIDITY OF EXPLANATION. "EL MERCURIO" JULY 25 SAID EDITORIALLY THAT PURGE WAS SAD PROOF THAT THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD DIE BY THE SWORD. IT POINTED OUT THAT "FOREIGN POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS" WHO HAVE SO OFTEN ASKED ABOUT FATE OF MIRISTAS AND BLAMED GOC FOR THEIR DISAPPEARANCE, NOW HAVE EXPLANATION WHICH THEY HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT.

8. COMMENT: ONLY NAMES EMBASSY RECOGNIZES ON NEW LIST ARE JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN IDE (REF B), AND JAIME EUGENIO
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BOBOTHAN BRAVO. DEPT HAS BACKGROUND ON PERELMAN CASE. ROBOTHAN WAS SUBJECT OF LETTER FROM H - MCCLOSKEY TO SENATOR KENNEDY DATED JUNE 16, 1975. HE MAY BE SAME AS JAIME ROBOSTAN REPORTEDLY FOUND DEAD IN ARGENTINA (REF C).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, EXTREMISTS, CASUALTIES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA05185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750257-1095
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaasra.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 5115, 75 SANTIAGO 5085
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, BR, AR, MIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006